



THE RARA RAG

Newsletter of The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Founded in 1931

DECEMBER MEETING: PlutoSDR: My VHF/UHF/ Microwave Swiss Army Knife, ANDY FLOWERS, K0SM

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT

.Andy Flowers, K0SM is our speaker this month and as always he has picked an interesting topic, I am sure this is going to be an interesting session!

Andy says 'There's nothing particularly "new" about an SDR today; I suspect the majority of us have used either a direct-sampling or direct-conversion SDR at some point. Perhaps less familiar is the application of this technology to the UHF and microwave spectrum. The Analog Devices ADALM-Pluto (better known to hobbyists as the "Pluto SDR") is a complete UHF and microwave direct-conversion SDR "dev kit" that can fit in an amateur budget. We'll explore how it works and I'll present some of my projects and experiments with it over the last year. This will focus on things beyond the usual plug-and-play SDR software and lab toys you'll find on the internet.'

You can join us online or in person. If you have been mostly online to our meetings recently consider joining us in person if you are not too far away. Enjoy the coffee and donuts, and especially the camaraderie of other members. The December meeting is on Wednesday December 6th 2023, 7:00PM at the Boy Scouts Headquarters at 2320 Brighton Henrietta Townline Road, Rochester, New York 14623. To attend online please register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5793392073155104598>

Just a reminder, take a look around your radio room. Is there anything you no longer need which you would be happy to give to a new home? If so, please bring it for our 'Free To New Home Table', but make sure you take it home with you if nobody claims it.



DECEMBER 2023
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BOARDZ BUZZ

KARL HEINZ KREMER, K5KHK, DIRECTOR

We are getting to the end of this year, this is the last Board Buzz for 2023. This year also was the ARRL Year of the Volunteers. Usually I talk about our education program, but let me switch gears and talk about volunteering. Everything we do in our education program is only possible because somebody volunteers to teach a class, give a presentation, mentor (or elmer) and much more, and the same is true for the club in general. Only because somebody volunteers to be the president, treasurer, be on the board, be the organizer of this and the do-er of that is it possible to have a functioning club.

Ham radio is completely volunteer driven, we have volunteer examiners who administer the license tests, we have volunteer monitors who take note of who is not playing by the rules, or who shows exemplary behavior on the air. There is a job for any interest. Chances are that if there is something you are good at or have fun doing, there is a matching volunteer opportunity for you.

For a club with more than 600 members (based on how we finished our last business year), it's surprisingly hard to recruit volunteers. I understand, we are all busy with family, job, the errands that need to be run, and then we also want to find some time to actually tinker with things and be on the air. It's hard to find the time to volunteer. We all have the same problems, but some of us are making the time for the benefit of all of our members.

When you read these lines, I would like you to consider what you could volunteer for – just take a minute to think about this. You don't have to do anything about it, just come up with a volunteer opportunity within our club that you might consider doing. It does not even have to be a role we are currently looking to fill, or anything we currently do. Be creative!

And now that you've found your perfect volunteer job, consider how much time you would be willing to spend on this and how you would be able to fit this into your schedule. A few minutes every day? Half an hour per week? More than that? Not quite that much? Thanks for playing along.

You now have a choice to make: You can forget about this little exercise and go back to your busy life, or you can say "hey, maybe I do have a little time to offer something to the club". If it's the latter, I would like to invite you to talk to any of us board members to see how we could use your skills.

The more people we find to step up, the easier it will be for everybody.

Now let me bring this back to my education coordinator role: We are still looking for somebody who is willing to coordinate our RARA Academy program. All we need is somebody who is good at organizing things. You do not have to teach anything, just plan the sessions. If you want to teach, even better. We are always looking for somebody who knows a little bit more about a topic than the average

ham. Take this "a little bit more" and wrap it into a presentation. There are people out there just waiting to learn about this one topic. Give it a try. From personal experience, I can tell that you might walk away from this experience knowing a lot more about the topic than when you started: Preparing a presentation could require that you read up on the subject a little bit more, or watch a YouTube video of somebody teaching just that topic.

Please, consider volunteering a little bit of your time.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY DEC 6, 2023 - RARA Meeting In Person and On-Line
7:00 PM - AT THIS LINK <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5793392073155104598>

THURSDAY DEC 7, 2023 - RARA Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM - ONLINE
Email request for link to secretary@rochesterham.org

Saturday Jun 8, 2024 - Finger Lakes Tour de Cure

RARA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERSHIP SEC-

As I have mentioned in previous columns, the number of RARA members reached 603 at the end of our membership year back in September. It dropped back considerably at the end of the year but as members renew it is creeping back. As I write this in mid November we are back up to 339 members so there is still a way to go.

Now is the time to renew if you are not a life member! Thanks to all who have already done so.

If your membership has lapsed, please renew your membership!

You can join or renew your membership [here](#).

There are many membership benefits, here are just some of them:

- Only members can attend the RARA Annual Auction
- Free admission to the RARA Hamfest
- Access to license classes and discounts for license manuals
- Annual events such as the Picnic and Winterfest
- Membership points for contributing to club events
- Supporting an Organization that you value!

Being a member is also important, as your dues and a healthy membership count contribute to many RARA activities such as Rag subscription, monthly meetings, RARA Academy sessions Elmer's Corner, [groups.io](#) mailing list, Facebook page, etc. Attracting good speakers is greatly helped when we can point to the size of our club, one of the largest ARRL affiliated clubs by the way.



To remind you all, the software package we use to manage membership is very old and missing features that we would like to see. One of its limitations is that it stores in plain text the access code you use to get to your information from our website. That means the support team (both of us!) can see the code, so don't use your secret password or confidential information.

I'd also like to give a warm welcome to the following new members who joined the club in the past month:

Bruce Fitch, KE2BUT
Robert Snyder, KB2EVU

Remember to look out for new members at RARA events and make sure to introduce yourself and welcome them to the club!

Silent Key

Gilbert B. Porter, III
W1GP
October 10, 2023



EDUCATION

Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK, Education Coordinator

RARA LICENSE COURSES

Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK, License Class Coordinator

License Classes

We are done with our fall classes and by the time you read this, we hopefully have a few more new hams and those with upgraded licenses. If you missed your chance this time around, we will run more classes starting in January. If you are interested or know of anybody who wants to get into ham radio, please let us know.

New General Question Pool

Since July 1st, all General license exams are now using the new question pool, which means that you need the 10th edition of the ARRL License Manual to study for the test. The 9th edition, which we've used before does not cover the new test. With the recent FCC rules change regarding data rates on the HF bands, there is a chance that some of the questions will be withdrawn. Going forward, there is a 2.8kHz bandwidth limit on the HF bands and no longer a data rate limit.

License Manuals

The current editions of the Technician and General license manuals are available to our members at a discount for \$25. At this discount, we unfortunately cannot deliver, and you would have to pick up the manual. If you are interested, please send an email to education@rochesterham.org

The Amateur Extra license manual will expire at the end of June 2024, because of that, we do not want to keep any stock that we might not be able to sell, but we can order a book for you for the same price as our other license manuals.

I usually have some license manuals with me at official RARA events (e.g. the monthly meetings)

RARA ACADEMY

We had another RARA Academy session about simulating things – this time around it was about simulating circuits with LTSpice. The recording is on the RARA YouTube channel. There is more to learn about LTSpice, so I am planning on having another session that covers more advanced topics. We will let you know when this gets scheduled.

If you have anything you would like to teach in a RARA Academy, please let us know. Even if it's something shorter, we can combine your topic with something else to fill the two-hour time slot that we usually aim for.

We are still looking for input in what our next Academy session should cover. To make it easy for our members to provide such input, we created an online survey. Please go to <http://tiny.cc/RaRaAcademySurvey2022> and fill out the survey. If this short link should not work, you can also use this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfe_RvJyAfc2BidWxePLvK1r_CjQosS1PV0Ua6m2zETiyPa-w/viewform

And we are again looking for a volunteer to organize our RARA Academy sessions. This is a position for which you don't have to be an expert in anything as long as you are **good at organizing things**, and you will get a front row seat for all Academy presentations. If you are interested in joining our education team, please let us know.

RARA ELMERS' CORNER

Suzanne Bishopp, W2SUZ
Rich Bishopp, KD2UBJ
Elmers' Corner Coordinators

Our last Elmers' Corner brought out a bunch of questions and we had a great discussion on what is DB. Antenna related, yes, but I learned a lot. There is a lot more to learn, but as we have heard, this great hobby of ours gives a chance to learn something every day.

If **you** would like to see a recording of the last meeting, please send me an email and I will hook you up with the link.

We would love to see you at our next zoom meeting in December. Any topic on ham radio is welcome, and we have a lot of Elmers there to help answer all questions. I love the tips and tricks that our fellow hams bring to this monthly chat, and you can share your latest greatest ham story, everyone has one!

If you have any questions that you would like us to be prepared to answer, please email them to us at elmerscorner@rochesterham.org, and we will make sure that we are prepared for our Zoom meeting.

As always, bring your coffee, tea or other favorite morning beverage and join us for our Zoom meeting, the first Saturday of the month at 10AM.

Can't wait to see you there.

ELMERS' CORNER

1st Saturday of the month
September – May

Next Zoom Meeting:

December 2nd 10AM-12PM
January 6th

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?pwd=MG5DZXd6SFovN3lXa0NNTzM5UnBLUT09)
[pwd=MG5DZXd6SFovN3lXa0NNTzM5UnBLUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?pwd=MG5DZXd6SFovN3lXa0NNTzM5UnBLUT09)

Meeting ID: 834 8467 4667
Passcode: 786545

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,83484674667#,,,,*786545# US (New York)
+13126266799,,83484674667#,,,,*786545# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kiOoVkCMY>

Suzanne – W2SUZ
Rich – KD2UBJ

MORSE CODE TRAINING

Dave Wilson, WA2HOY, RXCWG Coordinator

The RXCW Group assists Hams wanting to learn Morse Code or to develop their CW skills.

BEGINNERS MORSE CODE ZOOM CLASSES

Peter Fournia, W2SKY, hosts Morse Code classes on Thursday evenings 7pm.

No experience required. Join the group at any session. Register at:

pfournia@gmail.com

MORSE PRACTICE FOR ALL LEVELS ON ZOOM AND ON THE AIR

Tim Brown, WB2PAY, hosts Zoom code practice for all levels on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm. For On Air schedules contact Tim at:

tjbrown@rochester.rr.com

RXCWG INTERMEDIATE CW PRACTICE- 7:30pm Thursdays

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWWVlORjRlYXljc3pOUT09)
[pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWWVlORjRlYXljc3pOUT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWWVlORjRlYXljc3pOUT09)

Meeting ID: 799 6621 2852

Passcode: tpjz8e

W1AW On The Air CW Practice

<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>

Time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
9 AM		Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow
4 PM	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast
7 PM	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow
10 PM	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast

SLOW - 5, 7 1/2, 10, 13 and 15 wpm

FAST - 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 wpm

FREQ(MHz) - 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675, 50.350, 147.555

RADIO ELMERS

Name	Call	Area	Email
Tim Brown	WB2PAY	Ogden	tjbrown@rochester.rr.com
Dave Carlson	N2OA	Batavia	kdcarlso@gmail.com
Lawrence Hill	N2AJX	Henrietta	lawrence.hill@rit.edu
Rich Hoffarth	K2AXP		rhoffarth2000@yahoo.com
Bill Kasperkoski	WB2SXY	Pittsford	wb2sxy@gmail.com
Don Kiser	AC2EV	N Greece	dkiser100@gmail.com
Karl Heinz Kremer	K5KHK	Chili	k5khk@khk.net
Tim Magee	WB2KAO	Greece	585-704-5747
Mike Moore	KC2NM		mikemoore@ieee.org
Peter Schuch	WB2UAQ	Perinton	pschuch@rochester.rr.com
Forest Shick	WA2MZG	Webster	fshick3@gmail.com
Dave Timmons	W2DST	N Greece	dstimmons@gmail.com
Steve Verzulli	KA1CNF		verzulli@yahoo.com
Dan Waterstraat	W2DEW	Henrietta	higreen@rochester.rr.com

CW ELMERS

Name	Call	Area	Email
Ned Asam	W2NED	Pittsford	w2ned@frontiernet.net
Tim Brown	WB2PAY	Ogden	tjbrown@rochester.rr.com
Pete Fournia	W2SKY	Penfield	pfournia@gmail.com
Bill Hopkins	AA2YV	Brighton	whopkin4@naz.edu
Bob Karz	K2OID	Webster	rkarz@rochester.rr.com
Joe Rowe	AG2Y	Webster	ag2y@rochester.rr.com
Harry Williams	KF2TV	Kingsland, GA	harryw7872@gmail.com

December Meeting Raffle Prizes

- Prepper Communications (book)
- MFJ-1712S Telescopic HT Antenna
- Heil T Shirt (L)
- RSGB Radio Communications Handbook

2023 JOTA & CHALLENGE TROPHY CAMPOREE

MIKE MOORE, KC2NM, PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATOR

RARA provided a Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) station for the Boy Scouts of America Challenge Trophy Camporee (CTC) at Camp Cutler on Saturday October 21, 2023. Camp Cutler is located in Naples, NY. This is a new location for these events and prior CTC and JOTA operations have been held at Camp Babcock Hovey located on Seneca Lake. The announced plans to sell Camp Babcock Hovey resulted in the change in locations. Our station was set up on the back porch of the nature building located in the activity midway of the camporee. Groups of scouts brought a participation card that listed the activities available on the midway and we showed them what the Ham Radio hobby has to offer, how to get a Ham Radio license, and we gave them a chance to speak with scouts over the air located at other camps before signing off on the participation card. We had the club FT-450D set up using the club's 40M end fed antenna with the new FT-710 using the club's 20M end fed antenna. Both antennas with associated bandpass filters were swapped with both radios. We worked many SSB stations from a variety of US and Canadian locations and also with LX9S, the World Scout Bureau Global Support Centre for JOTA located in Luxembourg.



We were very fortunate this year that CTC and JOTA occurred on the same weekend. Many of the 29 QSOs that we logged were long because groups of scouts waited in turn at the mic so that they could each say hello to their counterparts on

the other end of the QSO. In addition to SSB contacts, the scouts were treated to a morse code demonstration by K5KHK and FT-8 by W2SUZ. Thanks go out to our participants Karl Heinz K5KHK, Matt KA2AUB, Mike KC2NM, Rich KD2UBJ, Kevin N2KCQ, Susan W2SBA, Suzanne W2SUZ, Paul WA2WPI, and Nicole.



The Challenge Trophy Camporee draws from a wide geographic area with 800 scouts in attendance this year. For more information about the Challenge Trophy Camporee see <https://challengetrophycamporee.org/>. For more information about JOTA see <https://www.scouting.org/international/jota-joti/jota/>

DECEMBER 2023 PUBLIC SERVICE UPDATE

MIKE MOORE, KC2NM, PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATOR

2023 Pumpkin Patrol

The 2023 Pumpkin Patrol that monitors the 16 Monroe County bridges over the NYS Thruway was held on Monday and Tuesday October 30, and 31. For this event we used P25 Trunking Radios belonging to Monroe County in addition to the Cobbs Hill Amateur Radio Repeaters 146.61 and 444.45 Mhz.

Each night began at 7PM with a roll-call from Net Control (Joe, AD2DB the first night and Erin, AA2FO the second night). Each half hour thereafter until release somewhere between 11 and 11:30PM, NC called the bridges for a status report. During the night, each overpass (bridge) was visited by Goodie Patrol, Ed Wilkonski on the East and Chuck (Charles Reddig) on the west twice.

On both nights of the Pumpkin Patrol the P 25 radios or repeater stopped working about 30 minutes after the net started. The net switched to the Cobbs Hill Amateur Radio Repeaters 146.61 and 444.45 Mhz. On Wednesday night The net moved to 145.11. After a period of silence, George K4GWA moved the net to 146.52 simplex with communication on the east side followed by the west side. We were able to continue the net that way. Good job, George for restoring communications.

Thanks to the following Radio Amateurs for your participation, making this year's activity a success!

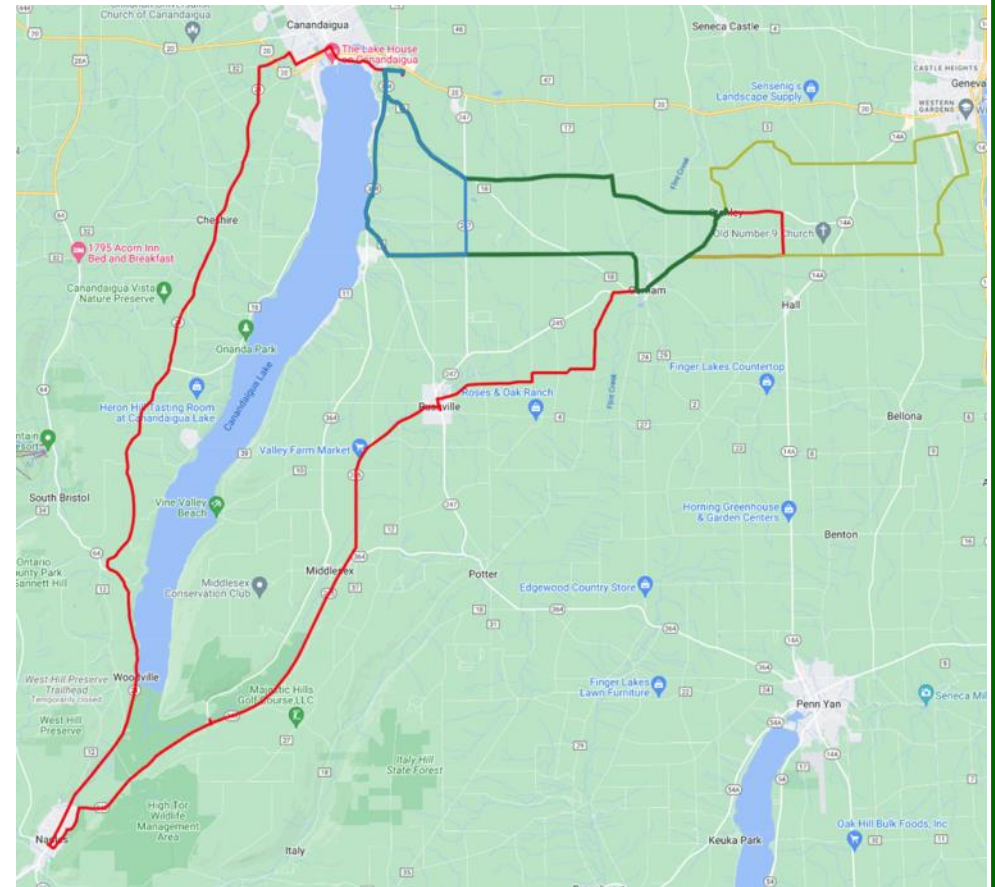
Erin, AA2FO, Donald, AB2NM, Joe, AD2DB, Ed, K1EM, Mike, K2MTV, Rich, K2UW, George, K4GWA, Aidan, K5DOC, Bill, KA2WNS, Chuck, KC2KPL, Diane, KC2MZP, Mike, KC2NM, Tom, KD2IOB, Jeff, KD2PQP, Dave, KD2RAF, Rich, KD2UBJ, Tom, KD2ZLP, Jeff, KD2ZPU, Nathan, N2NJW, Jean Louise, N2PHB, Bob, NS2B, Suzanne, W2SUZ, Jack, WA2CHV, Cedric, WA2FTV, Dean, WB2QCJ

2023 Tour de Cure Results from Nov 1 ADA meeting

- Total Raised - \$439,387 (10% growth)
 - \$110,000 sponsorship
 - 59 Teams, 507 registered participants, 102 Champions
 - 102 Champions raised over \$217,000 – just about 50% total revenue
 - 400 participants on-site
- 28 Radio Amateurs participated with a total of 260 hours of service
- Thank you RARA, SIARC, and Drumlins ARC for providing the command center and road team that lead to the safe execution of this event and the difference it makes to those living with Diabetes

2024 Tour de Cure

The 2024 Finger Lakes Region Tour de Cure will be held on Saturday June 8, 2024 with a change to the route and host site. The host site will be Finger Lakes Community College in Canandaigua, NY and the routes will leave from and return to that location. There will be 4 ride courses with lengths of 63, 40, 25, and 12 miles. The 63 mile ride extends from Canandaigua, south to Naples running west of Canandaigua Lake and returning just west of Geneva. The shorter ride courses loopback between Canandaigua and Geneva. This change in location will necessitate a completely new plan for communications and rest stops.



Proposed 2024 Finger Lakes Region Tour de Cure Route Map

Remaining events in the public service calendar are listed in the following table. Visit https://rochesterham.org/public_service.htm for more information and to volunteer.

2023-2024 RARA Public Service Events Dec. Rag

Event	Location	Day	Date
Finger Lakes Tour de Cure	Finger Lakes Community College Canandaigua, NY	Saturday	June 8, 2024
MS Roc the Ride Great Lakes Adventure	Lakeside Beach State Park	Saturday	TBD
ILLW	Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse	Saturday and Sunday	August 17-18, 2024
Fairport Lift Bridge Regatta	Erie Canal – Fairport, NY	Saturday	TBD
Wilmot Breakaway Ride	UR Central Lab, 211 Bailey Road, West Henrietta	Saturday	TBD
JOTA / Ham Radio Demonstration - CTC	Camp Cutler, Naples, NY	Saturday	Oct. 19, 2024
Pumpkin Patrol	Overpasses of the New York State Thruway	Wednesday and Thursday	Oct. 30-31, 2024

RARA CALENDAR

December 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 K1USN Speed Test	2 ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 9pm ARRL 160M Contest UFT Meeting Wake-up1 QRP Sprint PRO CW Contest FT Roundup Kalbar Contest SEC QSO Party INORC Contest
3 ARRL 160M Contest UFT Meeting Wake-up1 QRP Sprint PRO CW Contest FT Roundup Kalbar Contest INORC Contest	4 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest ARS Spartan Sprint	5 Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt	6 RaRa Monthly Mtg BSA & ONLINE 7pm ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 QRP ARCI Top Band Sprint Walk for the Bacon Contest	7 RaRa BoD Mtg 6:30pm ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB NRAU 10m Activity Contest NCCC FT4 Sprint SKCC Sprint (Europe) NCCC RTTY Sprint QRP Foxhunt	8 K1USN Speed Test	9 ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 9pm PODXS 070 Low Band Sprint ARRL 10M Contest TRC Digi Contest SKCC Weekend Sprintathon ARI 40/80 Contest
10 PODXS 070 Low Band Sprint ARRL 10M Contest TRC Digi Contest SKCC Weekend Sprintathon ARI 40/80 Contest QRP ARCI Holiday Sprint	11 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest	12 Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt NAQCC CW Sprint	13 ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80	14 ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB EACW Meeting NCCC FT4 Sprint NCCC RTTY Sprint QRP Foxhunt	15 K1USN Speed Test AGB Party Contest	16 ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 9pm RARA Testing at RIT 10am ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW Croatian CW Contest OK DX RTTY Contest Feld Hell Sprint Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
17 ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW Croatian CW Contest OK DX RTTY Contest Feld Hell Sprint Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	18 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest	19 Phone Weekly Test SKCC Sprint QRP Foxhunt NAQCC CW Sprint	20 ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 Walk for the Bacon Contest	21 ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB NTC QSO Party NCCC RTTY Sprint NCCC FT4 Sprint QRP Foxhunt	22 K1USN Speed Test	23 ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 9pm RAEM Contest CW QRS Xmas Activity
24 CW QRS Xmas Activity	25 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest QCX Challenges CW QRS Xmas Activity	26 Phone Weekly Test DARC Christmas Contest CW QRS Xmas Activity	27 ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p A1 Club AWT CWOps Test Mini Test 40, 80 CW QRS Xmas Activity	28 ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB NCCC RTTY Sprint NCCC FT4 Sprint CW QRS Xmas Activity	29 K1USN Speed Test RAC Winter Contest CW QRS Xmas Activity	30 ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 9pm RAC Winter Contest Stew Perry Top Band Challenge CW QRS Xmas Activity YOTA Contest
31 Bogor Old and New Contest AGB New Year Snowball C'test						

VE TEAM

Testing takes place on the 3rd Saturday September - April

Testing Location

RIT
Rochester Institute of Technology
Building 16 -Schmitt Interfaith Center
43.08402626755475, -77.6734520379509

- Easiest path is from Parking Lot D it can be accessed from West Jefferson Rd via Andrews Memorial Dr or Lowenthal Rd
- From parking lot D walk south up the ramp to the Schmitt Interfaith Center.
- Once inside there is an elevator over to your left or stairs in front of you. Go to the first floor and you will find the Skalny room.

Please Note: this room cannot be accessed from the door under the bridge.

Pre-registration is required visit:

<https://hamstudy.org/sessions/14612/inperson> to find the latest session.

More information is available on the RARA website:

https://rochesterham.org/license_testing.htm

Applicants must supply their own pen, pencil, calculator

Testing begins at 10:00AM.

Also Note: The exam is free however the FCC now charges \$35 for applications. This fee is NOT paid to the VE team. It is paid directly to the FCC. You will receive an email from the FCC when your application is processed. We will also have an information sheet available

VE TEAM

November VE Session Results

App Type	Existing Call	Name	Location	OpClass	Name Change	Call Change	Result	New Call
New		Michael Chwojdak	Churchville, NY	Tech	-	-	Offlined	
New		Richard C Conley	Rochester, NY	Tech	-	-	Offlined	
New		Scott J DiMora	Ontario, NY	General	-	-	Offlined	
Modify	KD2HZS	William A Hughes	Williamson, NY	General	-	-	Granted	KD2HZS
New		Hayden R McGarry	Schenectady, NY	Tech	-	-	Offlined	
New		William J Montesano	Victor, NY	Tech	-	-	Offlined	
New		Wade A Pawlak	Rochester, NY	Tech	-	-	Offlined	
New		Thomas E Slavin Jr	Webster, NY	Tech	-	-	Offlined	
Modify	KE2CCA	Danielle T Williams	Rochester, NY	General	-	-	Granted	KE2CCA

NEWS FROM AREA CLUBS

MONROE COUNTY ARES / RACES News

Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)® is an amateur radio public service organization based in Monroe County, New York, and is open to all licensed amateur radio operators. Monroe County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is a program of the Monroe County Office of Emergency Management. We participate in training and emergency exercises so that we can serve other agencies during times of communication failure.



The Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc. holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month except in July, August, November and December. The meeting in November is on the third Thursday to avoid interfering with Thanksgiving. Anyone interested, members and non-members, are welcome to attend. The meetings are in person at the county EOC at 6:00 PM and are also available via Zoom. Please check our website for any schedule changes. Prospective members can request an invitation by email to: secretary@monroecountyemcomm.org.

Monroe County ARES/RACES meets on the air every Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM, on the W2ARM 146.61 MHz (-) 110.9 Hz PL and 444.45 MHz (+) 110.9 Hz PL repeaters. Our club callsign is WB2EOC. On nights when we hold our regular meeting, the net is at 5:30 PM.

Web: www.monroecountyemcomm.org

Facebook: Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc.

Twitter @MCARESNY

ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION, RDXA

RDXA Annual Holiday Dinner:

19 December, 2023 at Johnny's

Go to RDXA.COM for additional information



XRX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The XRX Amateur Radio Club meets the second Thursday of the month (except July and August). 7PM at the Webster Recreation Center. Zoom meeting info, when available, is sent out to our mailing list. How to subscribe and up-to-date information is always on our website at <http://xarc.us> We have a System Fusion repeater south of the city on 145.290, and another on 444.825 west of the city that is also D-Star capable. Both are also analog capable with 110.9Hz tone. All are welcome.

AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTHERN TIER, ARAST

ARAST meets the third Thursday of every month at the Emergency Communications Center on Harris Hill in Big Flats, next to the National Soaring Museum. Our Chemung County ARES (CCARES) organization meets the first Tuesday of the month except February at the same location. Both organizations serve amateurs in Chemung, Steuben and Schuyler counties in New York and Bradford and Tioga counties in Pennsylvania. All are welcome to attend our meetings.

NOTE: Both CCARES and ARAST monthly meetings are now being held both in person and online. Check out the Upcoming Events at our website, www.arast.info, for the latest details.

Don't forget to check out our repeaters when you visit the area. N3AQ 147.36(+) and the W2ZJ 146.70(-) are the principal 2-meter repeaters. The latter can also be accessed via Echolink node 574415 with the call sign KD2QND-R. A full list of repeaters that can be heard in the Twin Tiers area surrounding Chemung County can be found at http://www.arast.info/arast_website/public/repeaters.php.

We also invite you to check out our new 6-meter net on Wednesday evenings at 9 p.m. local time on 50.200 MHz USB. The net usually lasts approximately one hour. Operators are encouraged to check in and participate in the round table discussions or simply stop by from time to time. We would welcome participation from RARA members.

COMMUNITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, CARC

If you are interested in being a part of this forward thinking and active club, visit us at a meeting or join us on one of our weekly nets. We meet at the Hoag Library (134 S. Main St. Albion, NY) on the first Saturday of each month at 7PM. Each meeting has a brief training/refresher period with upcoming topics including: net protocol, repeater set-up/maintenance, and digital signaling. The club holds a net every Sunday evening at 8pm (winter) and 9PM (summer) - 0100 UTC Monday - on 147.585 simplex, and we host the Thursday Night Social Net, Thursday at 8:30PM on 147.285+. We'd love to hear you check-in!

DRUMLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Drumlins Amateur Radio Club meets every third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Wayne County EMO/Sheriff's Office 7376 State Hwy 31 #1000, Lyons, NY 14489. Doors open at 7 pm, meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Announcements will be made on the 146.685 repeater. The Drumlins ARC website address is <http://drumlinsarc.us/>

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION OF PERINTON, DCAP

DCAP members continue to experiment with leading edge digital communication modes. We were formed in 1994 to foster the development of local and regional packet radio networks using AX25 and TCP/IP. Today we have members using the club sponsored DSTAR repeater (KB2VZS on 444.8MHz), several personal and publicly accessible DSTAR hotspots, Yaesu System Fusion systems on non-club repeaters and DMR systems through repeaters and personal hotspots. DCAP members meet for breakfast at 7AM nearly every Saturday morning at Riki's Family Restaurant in the village of Fairport and everyone is welcome to join us. Talk in is on the KB2VZS analog repeater on 146.715MHz with a PL tone of 110.9Hz.

KEUKA LAKE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, KLARA

The Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association meeting for Nov 8, 2023 will be held at the VFW in Bath, NY. Dish to pass meal at 6pm. Bring food to share, our table service and beverage. Coffee provided. At 630 will be a brief meeting. From 7-830 The National Weather Service is doing Winter Skywarn Training.

You don't need to be a member to come. Please join us and have a nice large class for them. We do a great service for the National Weather Service and our own Counties by participating in Skywarn. Even if you have taken the class before a refresher is great!

If possible rsvp to kd2bpj@gmail.com but you can also just show up.

The more the merrier.

Thank you.
Belinda Connor, KD2BPJ
KLARA Secretary

ORLEANS COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Orleans County ARC meets every 2nd Monday of the month at the Orleans County Emergency Operations Center, 14064 West County House Road, Albion, NY 14411. Doors open at 6:00PM, meeting starts at 7:30PM. Anyone with an interest in amateur radio is welcome. Program topics vary from month to month.

The club has an open two-meter net every Tuesday night at 9:00PM local time on the club repeater, WA2DQL/R (145.27 -600KHz offset, 141.3 tone). Everyone is welcome to check in.

See the club website <http://ocarc.us> or contact club Secretary Ron Craig, N5BNO for more information.

ROCHESTER VHF GROUP

You are invited to
join us on-line &
on-the-air! We're
here to help you to
use the license that
you worked so hard to get.



Check out what we do by visiting our
website at <http://RVHFG.org> to start.

Join our e-mail group by sending a message
to RVHFG+subscribe@groups.io.

Join our weekly on-the-air nets on SSB:
2 meter band - Monday 9 PM 144.260 USB
6 meter band - Thursday 9 PM 50.205 USB

No VHF SSB radio (yet) to join the nets?
Log-in to Echolink ka2ene-L #23426

We can help to answer the question, "What radio should I buy?" Here's a list of HF+++ radios, those with the HF bands and at least three VHF bands, giving you access to all sorts of VHF fun. Research each one to see which serves you best. Ask questions on our email list. We're here to help!

Yaesu FT-100D	Yaesu FT-817	Yaesu FT-818
Yaesu FT-847	Yaesu FT-857	Yaesu FT-897
Icom IC-706MKIIG	Icom IC-7000	Icom IC-7100
Icom IC-9100	Kenwood TS-2000	

Some are older models and some are newer models, but all provide access to the 6 meter, 2 meter, and 70 centimeter bands using both traditional FM and the exciting narrow-band SSB mode that supports unexpectedly long-distance (100's of km's routinely and 1,000's of km occasionally) VHF communication. These are good all-around radios no matter what club you end up affiliating with later. We hope its us.

SKENOH ISLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, SIARC

The Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7:30PM at the Ontario County Safety Training Facility, 2914 County Road 48, Town of Hopewell. We have License Exam Testing every other month which begins at 6:30PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 08th. There will be VE testing in November.

SIARC is also holding a Health and Welfare NET Monday through Friday each week at 2000 hours on the SIARC 146.820 repeater (located in Canandaigua, NY), Tone 110.9. This net is to pass along general information and keep hams in touch. All hams are invited to participate.

ROCHESTER RADIO REPEATER ASSOCIATION

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association, RRRRA will be having its next general meeting on December 15th. We may elect to schedule a get together lunch or a zoom only meeting for December. Check our web page for further information.

We were able to call a quorum and hold officer elections at our June meeting. Thanks to those members that attended either in person or via Zoom. The elected club officers are Bob Odell - N2BZX - President, Bob Shewell - N2HJD - Vice President, Jerry Powell - KC2YSY - Treasurer / Membership Chairman, and Jay Stewart - W4JPS - Secretary.

Stay tuned to our web site, WWW.K2RRA.ORG for any current information. RRRRA also accepts donations to the club. If you are not currently a member and want to support RRRRA, you can join at our monthly meeting or on our web site using PayPal. www.k2rra.org

ANTIQUE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION MUSEUM FALL COURSES

The AWA museum is announcing their fall schedule of classes for the public. You do not have to be a member to enjoy these well received educational classes. Details are on the web site at:

<https://www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/learn-build-fix-classes/>

THE AMATEUR'S CODE

Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

THE RADIO AMATEUR IS:

CONSIDERATE	Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
LOYAL	Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local club, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.
PROGRESSIVE	With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.
FRIENDLY	With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.
BALANCED	Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.
PATRIOTIC	With station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

RAGS OF THE PAST

ED GABLE, K2MP, RARA HISTORIAN

20 Years Ago, December 2003

This issue opened in the usual manner with an introduction of the subject matter for the upcoming meeting, usually by the Program Chairman who was most often the Vice-President. This meeting was special in that the venue for the gathering was not the usual Henrietta Fire Hall, but rather the annual joint meeting with the Kodak Amateur Radio Club. This popular outing varied in location over the years and this time it was held at the Kodak Theater on the Ridge, or better known locally as Building 28. Program Chairman Brad Armstrong W1YX, wrote telling members that the subject matter covered Wireless Net Working and the presenters would be representatives from local Industry.

A new type of column appeared next, I can't remember ever reading such a report, written by a new ham named Larry Wallnau, whose call sign was still pending, as he wrote an outstanding piece on the results of the just completed RARA Ham Auction last month. Not only did Larry tell of key items going up for bid by Auctioneers Ed Gable K2MP and Bob Hobday N2EVG, but he also tabulated data on which item had the most bids (a Radio Shack 2-meter brick) and the bargain of the night (a Collins 30L-1 Linear Amplifier for \$200.00). Several photos were included. Later, in this issue, George Masney KA2GBJ, wrote to further highlight an auctioned item, none other than a genuine cast aluminum, the real deal, "Wouf Hong!" George further told you could learn the terrorizing story of a Wouf-Hong, and it's too scary to elaborate upon application, by opening this issue on RARA's web-site and read for yourself, if you dare!

RARA President George Platteter AA2FO, in his "Prez Says" column introduced Cheryl Joyce AB2NU, as the new Coordinator of the Volunteer Examiner Team. Cheryl has previously been a member of the group who handled the administration chores including the detail oriented submissions to the FCC.

One who always submits news of RARA's activities, often having to do with public services, is a still active RARA contributor Mr. Peter Fournia W2SKY. Peter this time told readers of the excellent results of public service offered to fifteen different organizations in 2003. We can't list all of those served here, but follows a representative list: The Ontario Shore Marathon with the Arthritis Foundation, the Walnut Ridge Driving competition, the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk, the Walk for Diabetes by American's with Disabilities, the Jamboree On the Air for Boy Scouts, the Ginna Radiological Drill, ARES activation for Hurricane Isabel, and more. Peter added a comment still valid today: "The amateur radio service is chartered by Congress and the FCC to, in part, to serve the nation and the public, particularly during emergencies. A significant portion of the 3,000 hams in the greater Rochester area are doing that. Operate one public service event each year to stay in good operating readiness."

Ray Pickens (sk) WA2MYG, RARA's Licensing Class Director, penned an article to chronical the activities and progress of the ham radio licensing classes. Ray told of those passing the soon to wrap up twelve week class sessions as well as

introducing the newly planned 2004 class schedule to begin on February 16th.

There were no Silent Keys in this issue. From the For Sale Ads you could buy a Yaesu YS-200 Wattmeter for \$50.00 from Iv Goodman, AF2K. A long time commercial advertiser and good friend of RARA was Glenwood Sales of Hague Street, City.



the RARA RAG

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WIRELESS NETWORKING

Brad Armstrong W1YX (VP)

First, let me thank all of you who attended this year's auction. It was a great success and I fine time was had by auctioneers and auctioneers alike! Lots of fine amateur equipment found new homes.

This month is the annual joint RaRa/Kodak Amateur Radio Club. All RaRa members are invited to a special meeting of the Kodak ARC. This will take the place of December's RaRa general membership meeting. It will be held on December 5th at 8 p.m. in the Kodak Theater on the Ridge.

The presentation at the meeting will be on wireless networking. A variety of wireless topics and techniques will be covered; including how amateur radio can take advantage of this technology. A representative from local industry will be called upon as presenter.

The Theater on the Ridge is located in Kodak Building 28. The entrance to this building is easily accessible to the public on Ridge West West, about a quarter of a mile West of Lake Avenue. Free parking is available almost

COUNTINUED ON PAGE 4

RaRa Auction with Photos

Larry Wallnau (call sign pending)

Forget about Christie's Auction House. And do not waste your time with eBay. On November 7, RaRa held its annual auction. Auctioneers Ed Gable (K2MP, Club Historian, and Curator of the Antique Wireless Museum) and Bob Hobday (N2EVG) teamed up to hawk equipment that ranged from a Collins linear amplifier to an old wheatstone bridge in a nice wood case. Not only did they keep the pace lively, but their color commentary had the crowd in stitches. They cleverly "redefined" some equipment and provided amusing descriptions to cajole potential bidders.

With this backdrop, some fine classic rigs were put on the auction block, such as a Hammarlund HQ-140-XA (\$140), a Vibroplex bug in fabulous condition, a complete KnightKit station (T150, R100, with accessories) that went for only \$100, and a Heathkit transceiver, power supply, and scope (\$90). Arguably, the best buy of the evening was a Collins 30L-1 amplifier which recently had been serviced and brought up to specs. It sold for a

COUNTINUED ON PAGE 5

RaRa MEETING

December 5, 2003
8:00 PM
Kodak Building # 28
Theater on the Ridge
(Corner of Palm St & Ridge Rd. W)
Wireless Networking
Presented by
A Representative from Local Industry



RaRa RAG 1

40 Years Ago, November 1983

Standing with tradition, this issue of the Rag follows that of the Twenty-Year report above, as this too announced the joint meeting between RARA and this year with the Kodak Park Amateur Radio Club. The venue remained the same at Building 28 on Ridge Road West. The program for the evening was on the subject of packet radio, a new and important buzz word of the era, and told by local expert Ray Williams WA2YRT.

Still on the subject of Kodak Park, this issue announced plans for the 4th Annual Kodak Worldwide QSO Party, sponsored by the Kodak Park Amateur Radio Club, WB2WXQ, where Kodak employees/Hams world-wide are urged to QSO with as many other participants as possible. A participation certificate would be issued to each station sending a contest report to KPARC.

Writing for the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) was Major James Wenskus K2BEH. James wanted to get a message out that the local CAP had enough pilots and aircraft to meet their mission and charter, but lacked enough communications on HF SSB, RTTY and VHF FM to meet their needs of coverage in the Lake District EOC (Newark). Readers should take note and contact the CAP for more information.

A guest writer in these pages was Chris Imlay N3AKD, of the ARRL staff, who provided a two page article on the benefits of joining the ARRL. He put in one spot a comprehensive list of benefits and services that still make good reading today.

Another visiting author was world-famous amateur Don Wallace W6AM. Don, an early DX Record Holder and then President of the YASME foundation, was pleased to announce that the foundation was sponsoring the already famous and experienced DX'ers, Lloyd Colvin W6KG and Iris Colvin W6QL, on an eight country South American venture scheduled for a six-month period. Emphasis will be on 30 through 160 meters, both phone and CW.

Dwight Hill (sk) K2KWK, wrote to reinstate listeners to his official ARRL Bulletin station, heard three times weekly on three different VHF FM Repeaters in the local area. Listen Sunday nights at 8:45 pm on 146.79 or 146.88, alternating weekly. Then on Monday for the afternoon crowd, tune to WB2AQQ/R, on 145.11 at 12:15 pm. Finally, still on Monday, listen to 145.31 from Attica at 7:30 pm.

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA) was heard from with news that their most recent VHF FM transmitter hunt was won by Ed Kohl WA2UBD and co-pilot Paul Gregory WA2FTK. The RRRA Technical Director, Ron Jakubowski K2RJ, reported the Fuzz-Buzz system on their .88 repeater was down for repairs and this popular and effective repeater/police radio interface would be back soon.

There were no Silent Keys reported this month. From the Want Ads you could buy a Drake T4XC transmitter, with power supply, from the RIT Club station K2GXT, for \$400.00. An unusual commercial advertiser was WXXI-TV who was seeking employment of a TV Maintenance Engineer. An FCC General Class license was curiously required.

The RARA RAG

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VOL. 36 DECEMBER 1983 NO. 4

RaRa MEETS AT KODAK PARK — DECEMBER 2nd

RaRa and the Kodak Park Amateur Radio Club will have their annual joint meeting Friday, December 2nd at 8 p.m. in the Kodak Park Recreation Building #28 on Ridge Road west of Lake Avenue. Parking is in the lot directly across the street from the entrance to the building.

The program for the evening will be about packet radio presented by the leading expert in the area on the subject, Ray Williams, WA2YRT. Ray has given many programs on packet radio to other radio clubs and has built several packet repeaters. For the un-initiated, packet radio is a very efficient way of transferring data (read that computer data!) from one location to another at high speed and good accuracy. Packet repeaters do not have to operate duplex (transmit and receive at the same time). Instead they store the incoming data in memory and then forward it out on the same frequency a little bit later in time. This should be one of the most interesting programs of the year.

The Kodak Park Club will again be providing refreshments and will be inviting us into their very spacious and well-equipped "shack". We will look forward to seeing you all there!

RRRA NEWS

The program for the December 16th RRRA meeting had not been firmed-up as of the Rag deadline but will be announced in the RRRA Newsletter and on-the-air.

The winner of the October transmitter hunt was Ed Kohl, WA2UBD, and co-pilot Paul Gregory, WA2FTK.

Re-implementation of the Fuzz-Buzz was delayed due to some technical difficulties that had to be ironed out but it should be up and working well by the time you read this. Also, there was a problem with the keyline transistor on the remote receiver link transmitter. Seems everything happens at once. We'll have a full report on all the latest happenings by Technical Director K2RJ at the meeting.

1983 — 1984 4th ANNUAL KODAK WORLDWIDE QSO PARTY

Date: Saturday, January 7, 1984
Time: 1200 GMT — 2400 GMT
Host: Kodak Park ARC, WB2WXQ

Frequencies:	CW	PHONE
	14035	14.280
	21035	21.380
	7035	7.280
		146.58

We will try CW once an hour on the half hour.
We plan to issue:
1. Our new QSL card to all Hams for contacting WB2WXQ during this QSO party and after we receive their QSL card.
2. A Participation Certificate to all Kodak Hams after receiving a copy of their Kodak QSO party log.

SAVE THE DATE February 11th

RaRa
VALENTINE
DINNER
PARTY
HOLIDAY INN - AIRPORT

WHY ARRL?
See Special Inside

RARA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS

OFFICERS

President: Scott Theis, W2LW	(845) 774-9809	president@rochesterham.org	Treasurer: Brian O'Connor, KA2CGB	(585) 721-2346	treasurer@rochesterham.org
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Genesee Valley Amateur Radio Assn.

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West Side Amateur Radio Club

XRX Amateur Radio Club

Brian Donovan, K2AS: k2as@outlook.com

Rochester Makerspace

David Duckles: rocmakers@gmail.com

JANUARY RAG DEADLINE

DECEMBER 15, 2023

RARA MEETS AT 7PM ON THE FIRST
WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.

JOIN US IN PERSON

OR

ONLINE AT:

[https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/
register/5793392073155104598](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5793392073155104598)

CONTACT WEBMASTER@ROCHESTERHAM.ORG FOR SUPPORT

Rochester Area Repeater Listing

THE RARA RAG

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